

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 CU-02 ARA-06 AF-10
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R 181300Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7523
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6886

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, CSCE, UR, US, XG
SUBJ: POSSIBLE FORMATION IN THE USSR OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEES
FOR VARIOUS COUNTRIES

1. VALENTIN BEREZHKOVA, EDITOR OF "SSHA", TOLD POL COUNSELOR
AT LUNCH MAY 17 THAT HE HAD HEARD OF PLANS TO ORGANIZE HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMITTEES IN THE SOVIET UNION FOR INDIVIDUAL
COUNTRIES INCLUDING U.S.A. BEREZHKOVA DID
NOT REVEAL HIS SOURCES FOR THIS INFORMATION, BUT DID SAY
THAT IN CONTRAST TO THE OFFICIAL CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE
CSCE COMMITTEE IN THE U.S., THE PROJECTED SOVIET COMMITTEES
WOULD BE UNOFFICIAL, "POPULAR" COMMITTEES. HE WOULD NOT SAY
HOW MANY COMMITTEES WERE TO BE SET UP BUT DID NOTE THAT
THERE WERE PLANS FOR COMMITTEES FOR THE USA AND OTHER COUNTRIES.
BEREZHKOVA PROFESSED TO HAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS ON THESE
COMMITTEES.

2. THE POSITION WHICH BEREZHKOVA OCCUPIES, A SENIOR
MEMBER OF THE USA INSTITUTE, IS ONE THAT WOULD GIVE HIM
ACCESS TO INFORMATION OF THIS KIND.

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3. COMMENT. BEREZHKOVA'S STORY STRIKES US AS ENTIRELY
PLAUSIBLE. FORMATION OF SUCH COMMITTEES WOULD PROVIDE
THE SOVIETS WITH YET ANOTHER FORUM IN WHICH TO NOTE AND
CRITICIZE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE
WESTERN COUNTRIES WHICH HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE CSCE. AS WELL
AS OTHERS (EG CHILE, SOUTH AFRICA) WHOSE REGIMES ARE ALLEGEDLY

SUPPORTED BY THE WEST. CALLING THESE COMMITTEES UNOFFICIAL WOULD ALLOW THE SOVIETS TO DISCLAIM THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY COMMENTARY WHICH THE COMMITTEES MIGHT MAKE. THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN HINTING LATELY THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO TAKE ON THE WEST IN BELGRADE AND THESE COMMITTEES WOULD BE ONE METHOD TO DIRECT ATTENTION WESTWARD. MFA COUNSELOR OLEG SOKOLOV TOLD US MAY 16, WITH A NOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN HIS VOICE, THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD BE READY IN BELGRADE FOR ANY ATTACK WHICH MAY BE DIRECTED FROM THE WEST. SPECIFICALLY, HE MENTIONED THAT SOVIETS COULD COME BACK AT U.S. ON HUMAN RIGHTS BY CITING PROBLEMS SUCH AS BLACKS, PUERTO RICANS AND UNEMPLOYMENT. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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